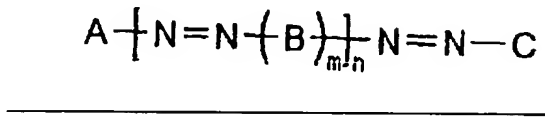
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

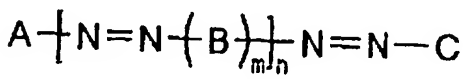
1. (currently amended): A black ink for inkjet recording, comprising a dye dissolved and/or dispersed in an aqueous medium, wherein the dye has a λmax of 500 to 700 nm and a half value width of 100 nm or more in an absorption spectrum of a dilute solution normalized to an absorbance of 1.0 and is a dye represented by the following general formula (1):



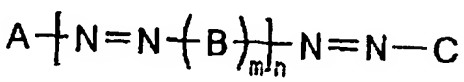
wherein A, B and C each independently represent an aromatic or heterocyclic group, which are substituted or unsubstituted; m is 1 or 2; n is an integer of 0 or more,

wherein the black ink comprises at least one metal chelating agent and has a forced fading rate constant k_{vis} of 5.0×10^{-2} [hour^{-1}] or less, in which the forced fading rate constant k_{vis} is decided by printing a black square symbol of JIS code 2223 in 48-point by using the black ink, measuring a reflection density D_{vis} of the printed symbol through a status A filter to obtain an initial density, forcedly fading the printed symbol by an ozone fading tester capable of continuously generating 5 ppm of ozone, and determining the time taken until the reflection density D_{vis} reaches 80% of the initial density.

2. (currently amended): A black ink for inkjet recording, comprising a first dye and a second dye dissolved and/or dispersed in an aqueous medium, in which the first dye has a λmax of 500 to 700 nm and a half value width of 100 nm or more in an absorption spectrum of a dilute solution normalized to an absorbance of 1.0 and is a dye represented by the following general formula (1):



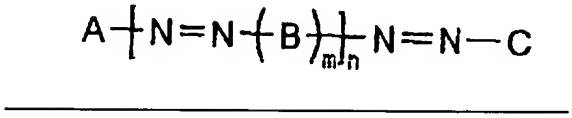
wherein A, B and C each independently represent an aromatic or heterocyclic group, which are substituted or unsubstituted; m is 1 or 2; n is an integer of 0 or more and the second dye has a λmax of 350 to 500 nm in an absorption spectrum of an aqueous solution and is a dye represented by the following general formula (1):



wherein A, B and C each independently represent an aromatic or heterocyclic group, which are substituted or unsubstituted; m is 1 or 2; n is an integer of 0 or more, wherein the black ink comprises at least one metal chelating agent.

3. (currently amended): A black ink for inkjet recording, comprising a dye dissolved and/or dispersed in an aqueous medium, wherein the dye has a λmax of 500 to 700 nm and a half value width of 100 nm or more in an absorption spectrum of a dilute solution

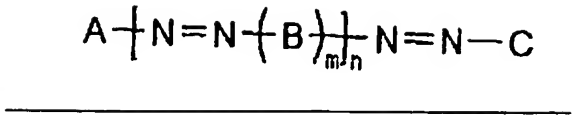
normalized to an absorbance of 1.0 and is a dye represented by the following general formula (1):



wherein A, B and C each independently represent an aromatic or heterocyclic group, which are substituted or unsubstituted; m is 1 or 2; n is an integer of 0 or more,

wherein the black ink comprises at least one metal chelating agent and has a ratio R of 1.2 or less, in which the ratio R is defined as a ratio of a maximum value to a minimum value of a forced fading rate constants k_R, k_G and k_B that are decided by printing a black square symbol of JIS code 2223 in 48-point by using the black ink, measuring reflection densities D_R, D_G and D_B of the printed symbol with respect to 3 colors of C (cyan), M (magenta) and Y (yellow) through a status A filter to obtain initial densities, respectively, forcedly fading the printed symbol by an ozone fading tester capable of continuously generating 5 ppm of ozone, and determining the times taken until the reflection densities D_R, D_G and D_B reach 80% of the initial densities, respectively.

4. (currently amended): A black ink for inkjet recording, comprising a dye dissolved and/or dispersed in an aqueous medium, wherein the dye has a λmax of 500 to 700 nm and a half value width of 100 nm or more in an absorption spectrum of a dilute solution normalized to an absorbance of 1.0 and is a dye represented by the following general formula (1):



wherein A, B and C each independently represent an aromatic or heterocyclic group, which are substituted or unsubstituted; m is 1 or 2; n is an integer of 0 or more,

wherein the black ink comprises: at least one metal chelating agent; and a dye having an oxidation potential of more than 1.0 V (vs SCE).

5. (original): The black ink for inkjet recording according to claim 4, wherein the dye having a λmax of 500 to 700 nm includes a dye having an oxidation potential of more than 1.0 V (vs SCE).

6. (original): The black ink for inkjet recording according to claim 1, which has a ratio R of 1.2 or less, in which the ratio R is defined as a ratio of a maximum value to a minimum value of a forced fading rate constants k_R, k_G and k_B that are decided by printing a black square symbol of JIS code 2223 in 48-point by using the black ink, measuring reflection densities D_R, D_G and D_B of the printed symbol with respect to 3 colors of C (cyan), M (magenta) and Y (yellow) through a status A filter to obtain initial densities, respectively, forcedly fading the printed symbol by an ozone fading tester capable of continuously generating 5 ppm of ozone, and determining the times taken until the reflection densities D_R, D_G and D_B reach 80% of the initial densities, respectively.

7. (original): The black ink for inkjet recording according to claim 6, which comprises a dye having an oxidation potential of more than 1.0 V (vs SCE).

8. (original): The black ink for inkjet recording according to claim 2, which has: a forced fading rate constant k_{vis} of 5.0×10^{-2} [$hour^{-1}$] or less; and a ratio R of 1.2 or less,

in which the forced fading rate constant k_{vis} is decided by printing a black square symbol of JIS code 2223 in 48-point by using the black ink, measuring a reflection density D_{vis} of the printed symbol through a status A filter to obtain an initial density, forcedly fading the printed symbol by an ozone fading tester capable of continuously generating 5 ppm of ozone, and determining the time taken until the reflection density D_{vis} reaches 80% of the initial density, and

the ratio R is defined as a ratio of a maximum value to a minimum value of a forced fading rate constants k_R, k_G and k_B that are decided by printing a black square symbol of JIS code 2223 in 48-point by using the black ink, measuring reflection densities D_R, D_G and D_B of the printed symbol with respect to 3 colors of C (cyan), M (magenta) and Y (yellow) through a status A filter to obtain initial densities, respectively, forcedly fading the printed symbol by an ozone fading tester capable of continuously generating 5 ppm of ozone, and determining the times taken until the reflection densities D_R, D_G and D_B reach 80% of the initial densities, respectively.

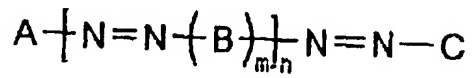
9. (original): The black ink for inkjet recording according to claim 8, which comprises a dye having an oxidation potential of more than 1.0 V (vs SCE).

10. (currently amended): The black ink for inkjet recording according to claim 3, which has a forced fading rate constant k_{vis} of 5.0×10^{-2} [$hour^{-1}$] or less, in which the forced fading rate constant k_{vis} is decided by printing a black square symbol of JIS code 2223 in 48-

point by using the black ink, measuring a reflection density D_{vis} of the printed symbol through a status A filter to obtain an initial density, forcedly fading the printed symbol by an ozone fading tester capable of continuously generating 5 ppm of ozone, and determining the time taken until the reflection density D_{vis} reaches 80% of the initial density.

11. (original): The black ink for inkjet recording according to claim 10, which comprises a dye having an oxidation potential of more than 1.0 V (vs SCE).

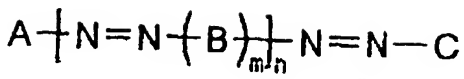
12. (currently amended): The black ink for inkjet recording according to claim 1, which comprises a dye having a λmax of 350 to 500 nm in an absorption spectrum of an aqueous solution represented by the following general formula (1):



wherein A, B and C each independently represent an aromatic or heterocyclic group, which are substituted or unsubstituted; m is 1 or 2; n is an integer of 0 or more.

13 to 15. (canceled).

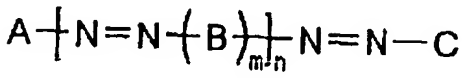
16. (currently amended): The black ink for inkjet recording according to claim 3, which comprises a dye having a λmax of 350 to 500 nm in an absorption spectrum of an aqueous solution represented by the following general formula (1):



wherein A, B and C each independently represent an aromatic or heterocyclic group, which are substituted or unsubstituted; m is 1 or 2; n is an integer of 0 or more.

17. (canceled).

18. (currently amended): The black ink for inkjet recording according to claim 4, which comprises a dye having a λmax of 350 to 500 nm in an absorption spectrum of an aqueous solution represented by the following general formula (1):



wherein A, B and C each independently represent an aromatic or heterocyclic group, which are substituted or unsubstituted; m is 1 or 2; n is an integer of 0 or more.

19. (canceled).